

Application No. 09/810,962

IN THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 11, last paragraph

Furthermore, the reform rate is defined as a value ~~obtained by dividing the quantity of weight reduction obtained by the DTG curve by a specific surface area of the particles~~ the ratio of the weight change of the graphite material, as calculated by the DTG, over the specific surface area of the graphite material particles. ~~The reform rate represents the reformed portion on the particle surface and correlates to the irreversible capacity. The reform rate is preferable to lie~~ The reform rate is correlated with the irreversible capacity of the graphite material, and is preferably within the range of 1 to 38, both inclusive. The graphite material defined by the DTG curve and the reform rate has a structure in which a component having a different structure from the inside of the particles sufficiently covers the surface of the particles to form the reformed portion. The graphite material of the invention has the DTG curve and the reform rate as defined above, and includes particles with an external coating material structurally different from the internal core material, where the external coating material is the portion of the particles undergoing the specific surface area change.